GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:812
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
TREATY ON BAN OF CHILDREN AS SOLDIERS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India is a signatory to a treaty which would ban the use of children as soldiers;

(b) If so, whether the United Nations Human Rights Commission has proposed this treaty; and

(c) If so, the main features of the treaty?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However there is Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which was adopted by the 54th Session of the UN General Assembly.

(c) The main features of the Optional Protocol are that it calls upon States Parties to ensure that children under 18 do not take part in direct hostilities and are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces.